



# U Serve Utah

Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism

The **purpose** of the Utah Commission on Service and Volunteerism is to enable individuals, communities and organizations in Utah to benefit from the service, power, skills, and passion of volunteers.

Our **mission** is to strengthen Utah communities through the power of service and volunteerism.

Our **vision** is vibrant, productive communities with active, engaged citizens.

## Minutes

### COMMISSION MEETING

November 20, 2014

2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Rio Grande Zephyr Room

#### **ATTENDEES**

##### *Commissioners*

Dwight Rasmussen

Ron Humphries

Melissa Miller Kincart

Evan Norman representing Lt.

Gov Cox

Diane Lewis

Lynette Rasmussen

Kris Hamlet

Sue Okroy

Chris Bray

Jeanne Hall

##### *Staff*

LaDawn Stoddard

Rochelle Runge

Katie Barlow

Mandee Curtis

Lani Nisbet

Amy Bridan

Karrie Beardall

##### *Guests*

Kerry Steadman, Utahs MVP

Program

Jane Quist

Laura Rothlisberger

#### **WELCOME/GOVERNANCE**

Motion to approve September Board Meeting Minutes by Ron Humphries, seconded by Diane Lewis. Carried by all.

LaDawn Stoddard discussed staffing changes for UServeUtah. Amy Bridan has been hired as the new National Service Program Manager and will be replacing Don Willie. Karrie Beardall will be joining the commission as the Disaster Services Program Manager as Tracy Bodily's replacement.

As the end of the year is nearing, the terms for chair and vice chair are coming to an end and a new executive committee for 2015 will be formed. Chris Bray was nominated as the next chair of the board with Kris Hamlet serving as vice chair. Dwight Rasmussen will replace Ron Humphries as immediate past chair.

Motion to appoint Chris Bray as Chair and Kris Hamlet as Vice Chair of the executive committee for the coming year made by Diane Lewis seconded by Melissa. Vote carried unanimously.

Jane Quist gave a report on national service updates. Next year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the VISTA and Foster Grandparent programs. Salt Lake City has been selected as one of five cities to host a celebration event in August. This event will be a community summit that will be developed over the next few months. Commissioners were invited to participate.

Operation AmeriCorps is a new program that allows organizations to apply for a grant that combines AmeriCorps, VISTA, and NCCC programs into one focused program that addresses a core community need. The notice of funding opportunity should be available in the coming days.

Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service will be held on April 7, 2015. Last year, 60 Utah mayors participated on some level in the event.

On January 19, the Corporation for National and Community Service is encouraging all national service participants to join a service project in their community. All AmeriCorps State members are required to volunteer on this day.

Employers of National Service is a program that was presented by the area manager, Amy Dailey at the last commission board meeting. This program is a task force aimed to work on engaging and encouraging lawyers to reach out to national service alumni to hire them for job openings. A few companies who have engaged as Employers of National Service include the Red Cross, Disney, Comcast, as well as various state and federal agencies. UServeUtah doesn't currently engage in outreach of this program on a local level but there are opportunities for that in the future.

For the second year in a row, UServeUtah will be donating a tree to the Festival of Trees as a way to reach out to the community as well as a way to promote volunteerism and our agency. This year, the tree's theme will be, "The Giving Tree" and will encourage Utahns to volunteer in their communities by giving of their time. Gifts under the tree center around the national service focus areas of family volunteering, education, environmental stewardship, and healthy futures.

Commissioners were encouraged to follow and engage with the Commission on Facebook and Twitter as well as to share with staff their various social media accounts.

Pay it Forward cards have been distributed to all the college campus service centers. They will also be included in the ornaments on the Festival of Trees tree. The commission is always on the lookout for stories to share from the Pay it Forward campaign. Those are interested can submit their stories on [userve.utah.gov](http://userve.utah.gov).

Commissioners will have the opportunity to change subcommittees in 2015. A committee sign-up sheet will be passed around for commissioners to indicate their interest level in each committee. They were also encouraged to engage in multiple committees as their schedule permits.

#### **AMERICORPS PROGRAM: PLAYWORKS**

AmeriCorps Program Spotlight: Salt Lake County Most Vulnerable Population

The AmeriCorps Ending Chronic Homelessness Program is located in Salt Lake County and involves AmeriCorps members across the state with mentoring and functions that supplement case management operations in segments of the population who are determined to be at 'high risk' for homelessness. The targeted populations include; chronically homeless who are now housed; young people who have aged out of foster care; children in homeless families and families at risk of becoming homeless. This program is receiving high praise for its innovative work in the area of homelessness.

Approximately 13,621 individuals in Utah are homeless in one year's period of time with approximately 9,300 living in Salt Lake County. The "Point in Time" count occurs each year in January. Around 500 individuals in Salt Lake County are defined as chronically homeless (persons who have been homeless for at least a year or have had four episodes of homelessness in the last four years, or have a mental illness. Nearly 900,000 AmeriCorps members have worked to end chronic homelessness since the program began.

AmeriCorps member activities include helping individuals find and retain housing as well as job placement and gain access to services such as social service and disability as well as food stamp programs. Members are placed in seven sites throughout Salt Lake County. Sites include Department of Workforce Services, the Road Home, the Asian Association, the Refugee Immigration Center, Palmer Court, as well as others.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*National Service – Lynette Rasmussen*

The next committee meeting will be held one hour before the next board meeting. Future committee meeting dates will be determined based on the next RFP cycle.

This year, UServeUtah has invited five programs in our current portfolio to apply for National Competitive funding. Two of those programs Read.Graduate.Succeed and Utah Conservation Corps are in second year continuation for National Competitive funding. The other programs who will apply include Playworks, Salt Lake County Homelessness and Health Care Corps. The committee will schedule a 90 minute meeting to determine a priority ranking for each of the programs for recommendation to the Corporation in the second week of January.

*Disaster Services – Diane Lewis*

Disaster Services will be meeting monthly for the next few months.

*Community Engagement – Jeanne Hall*

The committee has decided to meet one hour before board meeting six times per year.

#### **WRAP-UP**

The next commission meeting is slated for January 15. It has been proposed that the commission extend that meeting to a half day retreat to review and assess the strategic plan and solidify plans for 2015. The meeting will convene from 11:30 am through 4pm. As a reminder, by legislation commissioners are required to attend 75% of meetings, which equates to four of the six each year. Proxy attendance does count towards attending the meeting.

Three commissioners will be ending their term of service next month, including Jeanne Hall, Erica Dahl, and Allie Schroeder. Jeanne Hall was in attendance at the meeting and was thanked for her six years of service on the board. The commission is working to replace Jeanne with another representative from Northern Utah.

Rochelle Runge presented an update on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The focus areas for November and December are Family Volunteering and Economic Opportunity. The website directs the public to various ideas on where they can volunteer around these efforts. The site also highlights some key figures measuring impact of many of the organizations addressing these issues.

UNA has received a sizeable grant from Goldman Sachs to coordinate greater collaboration among refugee and immigrant organizations. They will also use the grant to evaluate where refugees are being served and what services are offered in each area. UNA will be working with Department of Workforce Services in addition to some colleges/universities and key players in the refugee and immigrants world.

UServeUtah participated as a partner of Utah Philanthropy Day on November 13. Commissioners reported their impressions on the support the community puts towards philanthropy and volunteerism.

#### **ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn by Chris Bray. Seconded by Jeanne Hall. Motion carried by all.

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| • NOV 22 <sup>ND</sup>                        | FAMILY VOLUNTEER DAY                 |
| • NOV 27 <sup>TH</sup> – JAN 19 <sup>TH</sup> | VOLUNTEER PLEDGE DRIVE               |
| • DEC 3 <sup>RD</sup> – 6 <sup>TH</sup>       | FESTIVAL OF TREES                    |
| • JAN 19 <sup>TH</sup>                        | MLK DAY OF SERVICE                   |
| • MAR 24 <sup>TH</sup> – 27 <sup>TH</sup>     | NATIONAL SERVICE REGIONAL CONFERENCE |

#### **ADDITIONAL FOLLOW-UP**

LaDawn send out calendar invite for all 2015 meeting dates.

Sue Okroy would like a flyer to distribute to high schools for promotion of GYSD 2014. She'd like that flyer for the Jan 15 meeting. Sue would like to coordinate with staff on the flyer design to make it more effective for the school audience.

UNA expressed interest in promoting the Employers of National Service in an upcoming newsletter. Jane Quist will provide URL links to the website for more information.